

**Abstract****Seals and a Method Making Seals**

5        A seal and method of making seals utilises folds in  
order to form creases in a length of material such that the  
creases reinforce individual seal elements or surfaces  
whilst perforations or slots in a seal edge allow air  
leakage from one side of the seal element or surface to the  
10 other. Thus, air pressurisation can take place between  
spaced seal elements or surfaces and this allows air  
flotation or riding of a rotating component relative to a  
static housing component. The perforations are typically  
graduated from the seal edge in order to provide the best  
15 pressurisation and air-riding effect for proximity or gap  
control between the sealing edge and the rotating component  
surface. The slots effectively provide flexibility to the  
sealing edge such that the seal component emulates a brush  
seal.